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RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 0577
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RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1481
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 5335
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 6500
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 8460
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 1247
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 1018
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 8815
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SUBJECT: GOP PM AZIZ CONGRATULATES NEW IRAQI PRIME MINISTER

REF: A. STATE 81632

[1](#)B. GRENCIK - ENGELKEN EMAIL 22 MAY 06

On May 22, the Ambassador spoke with Foreign Secretary Muhammad Riaz Khan to urge the GOP to publicly support Iraq's new prime minister. (Ref A) The Foreign Secretary agreed that the international community should voice its support for Prime Minister al-Maliki and his government, citing the congratulatory statement by Pakistani PM Shaukat Aziz issued by the MFA earlier that afternoon. (Ref B) The text of PM Aziz's statement is reproduced below:

(Begin text.)

Press Release

Following is the text of the message of felicitations from Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz addressed to H.E. Mr. Jawad Al Maliki, on assumption of the office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq:

"Quote

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, it gives me great pleasure to convey our warm felicitations to Your Excellency on your appointment as Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq.

We sincerely hope that the endeavours of your government is steering Iraq through its difficult phase and returning it to stability and economic prosperity are very soon met with success. In Pakistan, we have been steadfast in our support to our brothers in Iraq and remain committed to extending a helping hand for the country's rebuilding efforts.

Please accept, Excellency, my sincere wishes for your well-being and for the progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Iraq.

(Shaukat Aziz)
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Excellency Mr. Jawad Ali Maliki,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq".

Unquote"

Islamabad
May 22, 2006

(End text.)
CROCKER